

10/009982

ABSTRACT

A liquid-development electrophotographic apparatus using a liquid toner is disclosed. A nonvolatile, high-viscosity, high-concentration liquid toner is used as a liquid developer. A developing section is in contact with photosensitive drums 11-14, on which an electrostatic latent image is formed, so that the liquid developer is supplied onto photosensitive drums 11-14. Toner particles contained in the liquid developer are caused to adhere to the photosensitive drums 11-14 according to an electric field established between the developing section and the photosensitive drums 11-14 to thereby form toner images. An intermediate transfer section includes an intermediate transfer roller 15 and an intermediate transfer belt 16. The toner images are transferred from the photosensitive drums 11-14 to the intermediate transfer section according to an electric field established between the intermediate transfer section and the photosensitive drums 11-14. A transfer-and-fixation section includes a heater for melting the toner images transferred onto the intermediate transfer belt 16 through application of heat at a contact portion between the intermediate transfer belt 16 and a printing medium to thereby melt-transfer the toner images onto the printing medium. A development section is disposed at a lower portion of the apparatus to thereby prevent smudging of the printing medium and the intermediate transfer section even when the liquid toner spills.